

Stream Team Annual Report

2004

A Summary of Stream Team Activities



Fulton High School Environmental Science students from Team 1089 (above) planted 100 trees and willow stakes last spring to help reduce streambank erosion on Stinson Creek. Thanks to Stream Team teachers, many young people have been made aware of the importance of forested riparian corridors.

Missouri Stream Team . . . promoting citizen awareness and involvement in river and stream conservation.



◆ Education ◆ Stewardship ◆ Advocacy ◆

For fifteen years volunteers have been signing on to adopt, improve, and protect their favorite streams. Some of Stream Team's most active and dedicated members have been with the program for a good portion of those fifteen years. They have seen the program grow and pass on its contagious friendship with Missouri rivers from one member to the next.

The year 2004 brought us 230 new Teams, which means that nearly every other day, a new group signed up to start a Stream Team! The program is now 2,654 Teams strong and accomplishing more than ever. This year we boast 134,460 volunteer hours!

During 2004, Teams participated in 29 different types of activities. With the addition of educational events held in conjunction with Missouri River Relief cleanups and extensive efforts in the Kansas City area, an all-time high exceeding 25,000 hours was logged for stream-related education projects. Over 650 tons of trash were removed and over 7,000 trees were planted. The capabilities of Stream Team volunteers is amazing!

More milestones from 2004 include:

- ◆ Three Stream Team Academy workshops held throughout the state on *Water and the Law*.
- ◆ Stream Team Academy workshops held on *Herpetology* and *Missouri Crayfish*.
- ◆ Seven Missouri River cleanups held from St. Louis to Kansas City in conjunction with the Lewis and Clark bicentennial celebration.
- ◆ Participation and leadership in World Monitoring Day efforts (20 sites monitored on the Meramec River alone).
- ◆ Continued expansion of the Stream Team Website, www.mostreamteam.org.
- ◆ Provided assistance to nine other states with similar efforts.
- ◆ Arnold Stream Team helped to establish a \$1,000 fine for dumping in their Meramec floodplain.
- ◆ \$2.3 million worth of volunteer labor expended.

Sit back, put your feet up, and continue reading to share with us as we reflect on 2004.

Stream Team Success

WE'RE STILL MONITORING WATER QUALITY

Many of our Stream Team volunteers are initially attracted to the program because of the chance to monitor water quality. The program has trained over 4,500 citizens in water monitoring. The demand for our water quality workshops this year continued to be something that staff could barely keep up with! But, with some clever scheduling and the help of several volunteers and agency biologists trained to assist, we were able to pull off a total of 29 workshops. A total of 310 volunteers monitored 336 sites during the year. As volunteers progress through each training level, the more reliable their data becomes. The breakdown of workshops held was as follows:

Water Quality Monitoring Workshop Type	Number of Workshops	Number of Volunteers Trained
Introductory	12	235
Level 1	6	103
Level 2	5	34
Level 3	5	5
Level 4	1	2
Total	29	379

The Stream Team VWQM Program began its second Level 4 Water Quality Monitoring project in 2004. This project focused on three streams in Lincoln and Warren Counties and is part of a large-scale Missouri Department of Natural Resources study to determine background nutrient levels in Missouri streams. Two Level 3 volunteers attended comprehensive Department of Natural Resources training for field sample collection and documentation. Along with their usual field measurements, these volunteers have collected numerous water samples for detailed analysis by the Department's environmental laboratory.

Perhaps water quality monitoring is so popular because it gives volunteers the chance to learn so much about their watershed and



It's a special treat to be able to reward Stream Teams for their dedicated efforts. Above are a few of the volunteers who received awards from the Stream Team program. Congratulations to all, and thank you for another year of caring for Missouri streams.

stream resources. More importantly though, it gives them the chance to participate, hands-on, and they know the data they collect is really being used. Their data is used by state agencies, municipalities, watershed partnerships, and more. In fact, it is not uncommon for volunteer data to be the only data that is available in many areas. This year a volunteer monitor reached the milestone of submitting 10 years of consistent data from one location! This information is invaluable.

2004 workshop presentations were given in an all-new electronic PowerPoint format. This allowed us to incorporate more information and animation into what were once simple slide or overhead formats. The new technology really helped to make the workshops shine!

MORE AND MORE WEB SITE INNOVATIONS

Opportunities for Stream Team volunteers to communicate with each other were

added to the Stream Team Web site in 2004. The *Stream Team Forum* offers Teams a fast and easy means of on-line communication. By participating at www.mostreamteam.org/forum/default.asp, members can post questions they have about activities, offer advice to new Stream Team members, or just chat with their favorite Stream Team friends. Subject areas are listed or more specific ones can be created. The *Forum* can be used at any time of day and gives the advantage of seeking accumulated knowledge from Teams around the state.

Another new opportunity was created through *Stream Team Connections*. This page allows members to advertise "offers to help" and "requests for help." Ads can be placed for anything from an offer to join an existing Stream Team to a request for help monitoring a whole watershed. *Stream Team Connections* is the perfect compliment to the *Stream Team Forum*. Find it at www.mostreamteam.org/STconnections/index.asp.

Two new funding opportunities were also

Stream Team Growth

unveiled this year. The *Stream Team Shopping Mall* is an innovative fund-raising mechanism that allows the program to receive donations from retail merchants when shoppers make purchases through the *Stream Team Shopping Mall*. There is no extra cost to the customer. A brand new product, Stream Team Artisan Coffees, can also be purchased on-line. For every pound of coffee purchased, \$2.00 is donated back to the Stream Team program. The funds raised through these efforts will help to offset the costs of water quality monitoring equipment, work gloves, incentive items, and more.

On-line workshop registration and data submission also continue to grow. Stream Team is trying to keep up with our fast-moving, technology-based society!

AMERICORPS LENDS A HELPING HAND

Stream Teams in the St. Louis area have more “helping hands” thanks to a pilot project providing AmeriCorps Stream Team Assistants. Three Stream Team veterans filled the positions and began making welcome calls to new Teams, mentoring Teams with water quality monitoring and other projects. The members are supported by partnerships between Great Rivers Greenway, Open Space Council, Greenway Network, the Missouri River Communities Network, and the Department of Conservation. Teams appreciate having local contacts who are knowledgeable and experienced, and the sponsors are impressed with the results. We hope to be able to expand the project to other parts of the state in the future.

ADOPTIONS CONTINUE TO GROW

The popular Adopt-An-Access Program offers opportunities for individuals or groups to help maintain stream and lake

accesses in Missouri. Adopters can periodically pick up litter, maintain plantings, mow, or provide other services.

Twenty-two new Adopt-An-Access agreements were signed in 2004. High levels of satisfaction for volunteers and agency staff continue to be evident, as 8 of 9 expired agreements were renewed again this year. Adopters reported 223 activities at the accesses including 5,594 participants who worked 11,464 hours. Almost 30 tons of litter was collected. Approximately 260 Department of Conservation accesses, and numerous other accesses managed by federal, state, and local entities, are still available for adoption.

ST ACADEMY . . . LEARNING IS GROWING

During 2004, several other workshops were held in addition to water quality monitoring. Three *Water And The Law* workshops were held throughout the state. This workshop was provided to give concerned citizens a non-legal overview of our law, its origins, and its structure within the context of protecting natural resources. A brief insight to the fundamentals was included as well as a review of relevant constitutional, federal, and state law.

Herpetology and *Crayfish* workshops were also held in 2004. Both of these workshops were repeats from previous years, but there is still interest for more. Stream Teams had the chance to learn about identification and life history information for these two groups. Opportunities for field trips during the *Herpetology* workshop enhanced the learning experience and helped to familiarize participants with sampling methods and habitats.

Stream Teams have an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. Whenever a workshop is announced, registrations pour in and waiting lists begin. Stream Team Academy . . . where learning never stops growing.

REGIONAL GET-TOGETHERS

Because of the growing numbers of Teams throughout the state, statewide annual conferences have become more and more difficult to provide. However, there is still a need and desire for Teams to get together to share accomplishments as well as opportunities for the future. Stream Team staff are now trying to provide that opportunity regionally.

During 2004, the first Stream Team Regional Meeting was held in Chillicothe for volunteers throughout northwest Missouri. Although the turnout was small, those that attended valued the opportunity to get updates on the program, learn about their neighboring Teams’ accomplishments, and have the opportunity to volunteer for some upcoming agency-sponsored activities. Shared ideals and enthusiasm at the meeting also kick-started some new adopt-an-access and water quality monitoring efforts.

The Kids’ Club from Runge Conservation Nature Center in Jefferson City (Team 667) had fun this summer keeping Wears Creek trash free.



Stream Team Potential

THIS YEAR'S TOP TEAMS

The Stream Team Program has so many outstanding volunteers, that each year it gets harder and harder to choose recipients of our annual awards. Award winners are chosen based on the activity reports they submit throughout the year. This year's deserving winners were:

Adult Category

Awareness:

Team 1008 *Twin River Rangers*

Honorable Mention:

Team 211 *City of Arnold Stream Team*

Leadership:

Team 1878 *Blue River Watershed Association*

Honorable Mention:

Team 523 *Show Me Clean Streams*

Stewardship:

Team 713 *Upper Jacks Fork River Rats*

Honorable Mention:

Team 95 *Missouri Whitewater Association*

Youth Category

Awareness:

Team 396 *Francis Howell High School SAFE (Students Acting For the Environment)*

Honorable Mention:

Team 2162 *Wentzville Middle School*

Leadership:

Team 1732 *Doling Community Stream Team*

Honorable Mention:

Team 1142 *Noel Conservation Club*

Stewardship:

Team 1299 *Seymour School Science Students*

Honorable Mention:

Team 1370 *Marshfield High School*

Larry O'Donnell (Teams 175 and 2428) also received a *Letter of Recognition* from the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society for his efforts within the Blue and Little Blue River watersheds in Kansas City.

Also winning recognition from the Conservation Federation of Missouri were

Gerry Boehm (Teams 346, 396, and 463), who won the *Water Conservationist of the Year* award, and Marty Brantner (Teams 1181 and 2216), who won the *Youth Conservationist of the Year* award.

Our congratulations go to all these winners as well as to those folks who received recognition within their local communities or watersheds!

BAG THAT TRASH

Stash Your Trash, sponsored by the Stream Team Program, provides reusable mesh trash bags to canoe outfitters as well as to Stream Team volunteers. This year 249,575 bags were provided to 110 outfitters and another 18,274 were used for Stream Team projects. Many of the outfitters help out by recycling bags, using them over and over again. In addition to these mesh bags, 2,500 50-gallon plastic bags were provided for large-scale cleanups.

Imagine if the trash carried by all these bags had ended up in our streams!

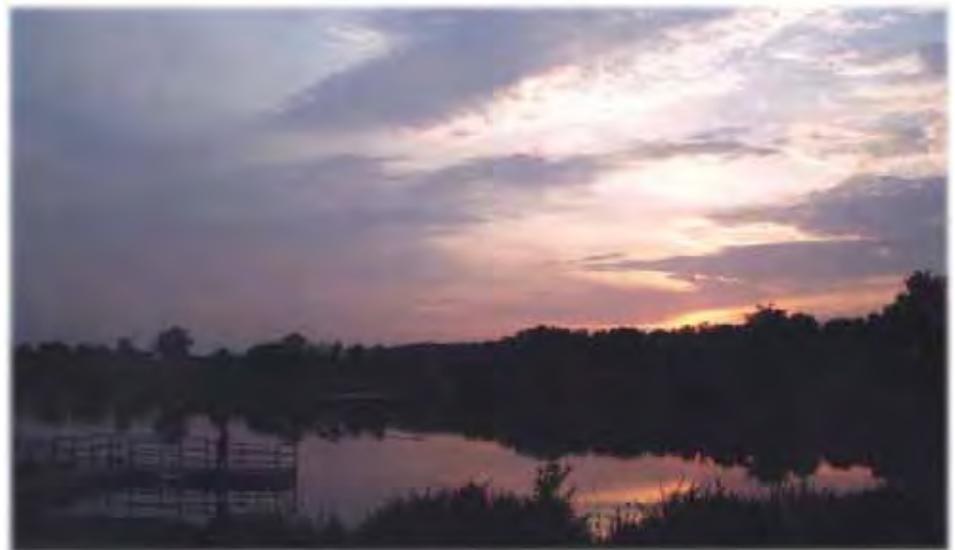
WHAT IS PLANNED FOR 2005?

Plans for 2005 are taking shape, and we already have several exciting things on our calendar. The Stream Team Academy will host three new workshops: mussels, hellbenders, and EPT (Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera) monitoring. We will also hold another Understanding Streams workshop to further volunteer understanding of stream systems and their interconnected watersheds.

A regional meeting is scheduled for southeast Missouri, and meetings for the northeast and southwest may also be on the horizon.

Several large-scale cleanups are scheduled on the Missouri River, and the annual Operation Clean Stream event in the Meramec watershed will also take place. Blue River Rescue, a Kansas City-based event, will celebrate its 15th year. It's exciting to see how watersheds and communities are changing as a result of improving their nearby river resources.

We're looking forward to another exciting year, hoping our volunteers will continue to astonish us with what they can accomplish!



Sometimes it's the view at the end of a day of hard work that makes it all worthwhile. Stream Team 151, the Valley Park Lions, snapped this photo of Simpson Park Lake after a long meeting where they hashed out plans and details for Operation Clean Stream. The lake was also cleaned during this annual event by local Boy Scouts.

Stream Team Activity Totals 2004

Stream Team Activity Totals - 2004

These totals are based on activity reports submitted by Stream Teams.

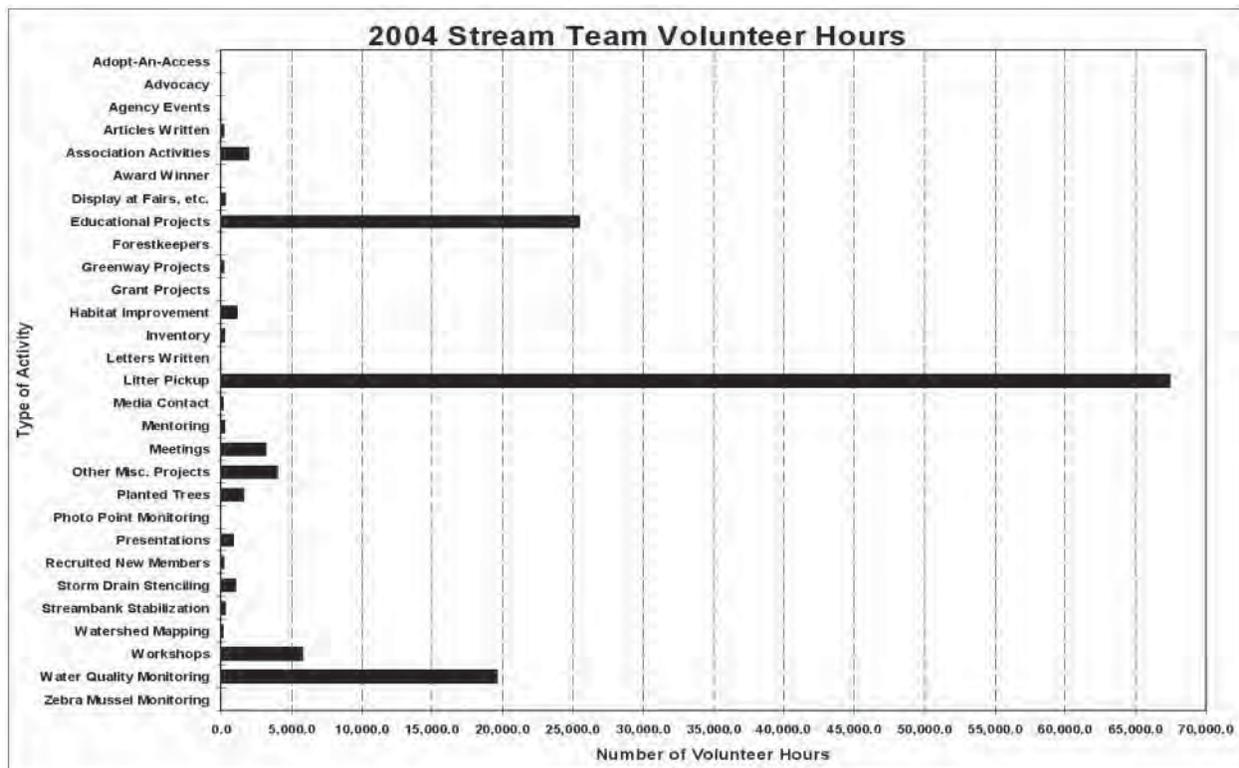
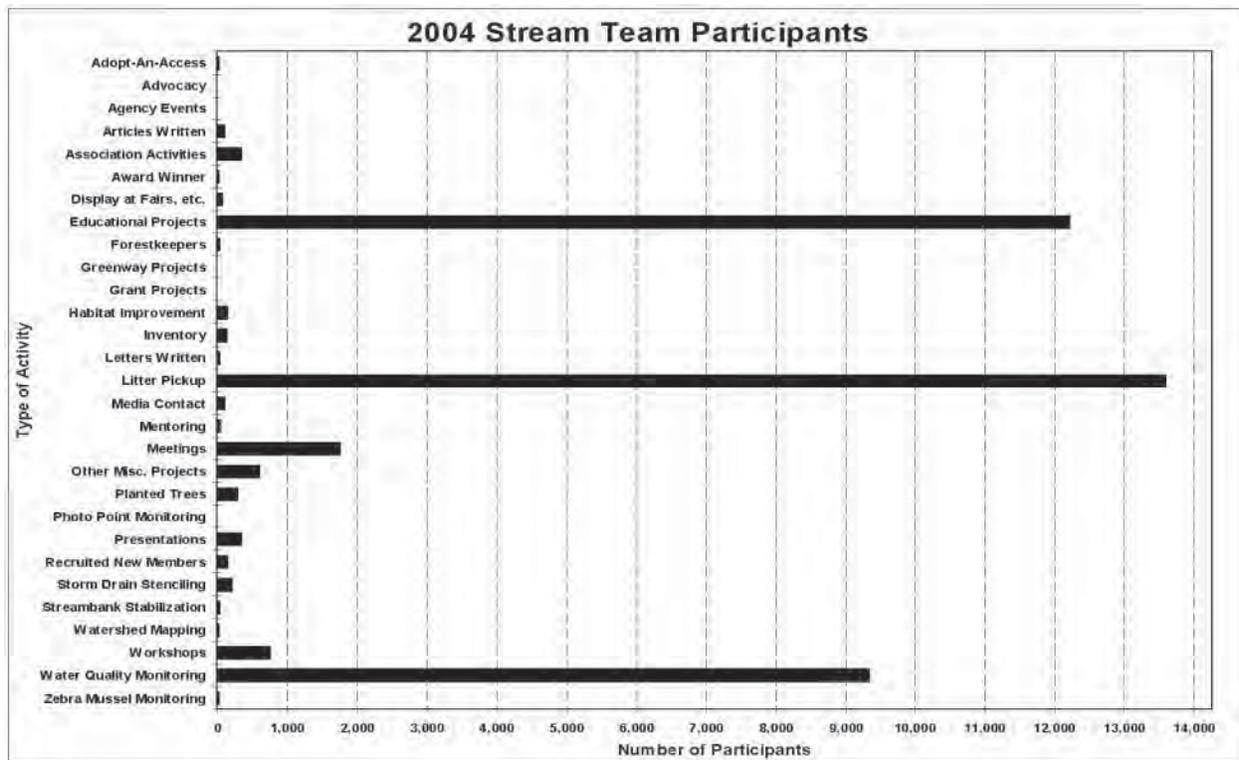
Activity	Participants	Time Spent (volunteer hours)	Number of Units	Value (Hours x \$ 17.55*)
Adopt-An-Access (# of adoptions)	20	48.0	19 accesses	\$842.40
Advocacy	1	12.0	12 hours	\$210.60
Agency Events	5	40.0	7 events	\$702.00
Articles Written (newspaper, newsletter, etc.)	105	157.0	43 articles	\$2,755.35
Association Activities	345	1,964.0	1,964 hours	\$34,468.20
Award Winner	30	38.0	21 awards	\$666.90
Display at Fairs, etc.	81	335.0	12 events	\$5,879.25
Educational Projects	12,210	25,481.3	415 events	\$447,196.80
Forestkeepers -- Forest Monitoring	41	63.3	7 trips	\$1,110.92
Greenway Development Projects	17	183.0	11 projects	\$3,211.65
Grant Projects	9	70.0	4 projects	\$1,228.50
Habitat Improvement	152	1,171.5	52 projects	\$20,559.83
Inventory	142	220.0	11 inventories	\$3,861.00
Letters Written in Support of ST Issue	37	72.8	70 letters	\$1,277.64
Litter Pickup	13,590	67,410.7	651.4 tons of trash	\$1,183,057.70
Media Contacts	111	132.5	26 interviews	\$2,325.38
Mentoring	48	214.8	167.8 hours	\$3,769.74
Meetings (held or attended)	1,755	3,192.8	1,747 attendees	\$56,033.64
Other Miscellaneous Projects**	604	4,037.8	82 projects	\$70,863.39
Planted Trees	307	1,601.5	7,335 trees	\$28,106.33
Photo Point Monitoring	12	51.5	45 trips	\$903.83
Presentations to Other Groups	348	843.4	54 presentations	\$14,801.67
Recruited New Members	156	171.0	197 people	\$3,001.05
Storm Drain Stenciling	219	1,010.5	533 drains	\$17,734.28
Streambank Stabilization Projects	31	322.0	12 events	\$5,651.10
Watershed Mapping	24	133.0	5 trips	\$2,334.15
Workshop (attended or conducted)	754	5,824.0	746 attendees	\$102,211.20
Water Quality Monitoring	9,338	19,622.8	1,326 trips	\$344,380.14
Zebra Mussel Monitoring	23	36.0	10 trips	\$631.80
Totals	40,515	134,460.0		\$2,359,773.00

* \$17.55/hour is the current national non-agricultural wage rate for the estimated value of volunteer time. This figure is provided annually courtesy of the U.S. Department of Labor.

** Includes projects like web site development, newsletters, scout programs, fund-raising projects, etc.

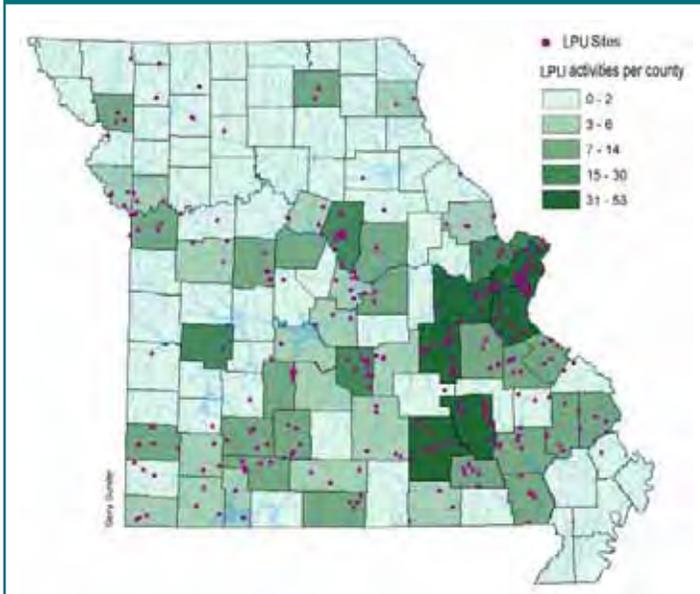
**Over
\$2.3 million!**

Stream Team Activity Charts 2004

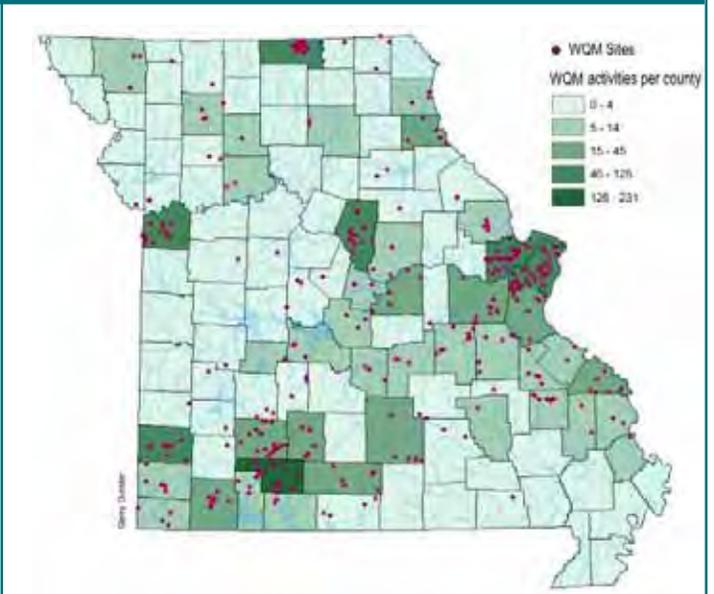


Stream Team Activity Sites 2004

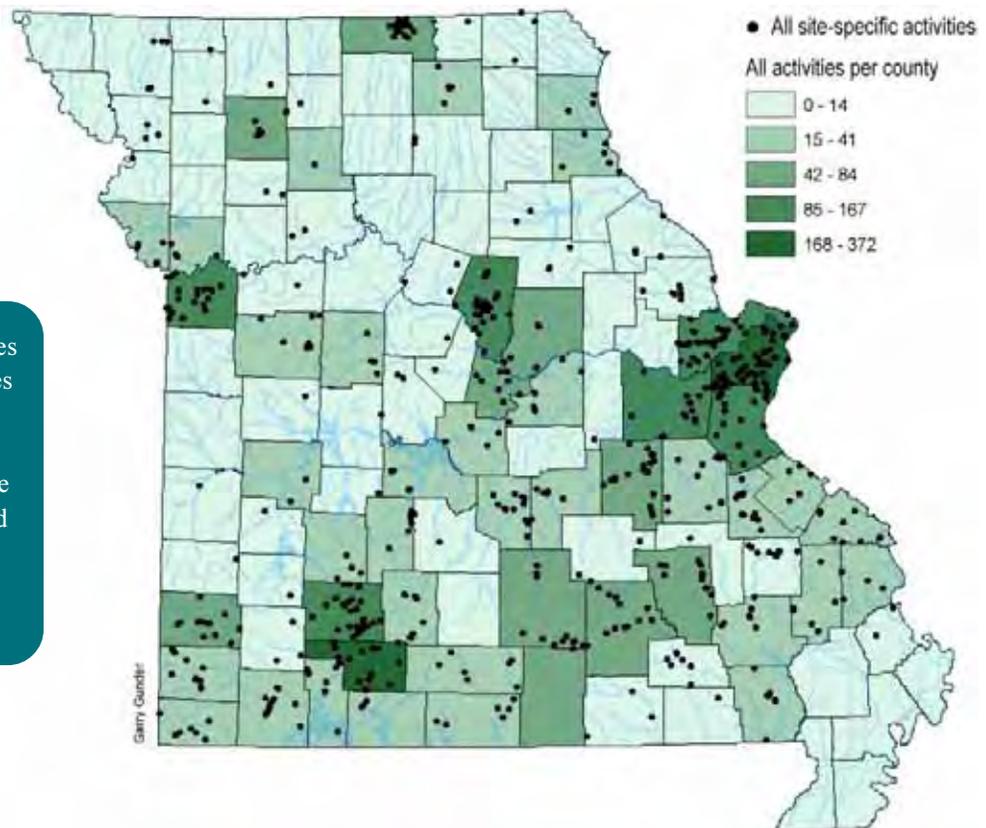
LITTER PICKUP SITES



WATER QUALITY MONITORING SITES



ALL ACTIVITY SITES AND ALL ACTIVITIES PER COUNTY



These maps indicate sites where reported activities occurred in 2004. Some activity sites are not mapped because we do not have detailed site information; many other activities are not site-specific.

Stream Team Reflections 2004



Photo Point Monitoring (like the photo above of Crane Creek submitted by Team 2408) is another way to provide information about what is happening to your adopted stream. Photographs can reveal changes that other types of monitoring can miss.



Stream Team 677 from Sturgeon High School sampled water quality at Silver Fork Creek on a nice day in December. They learned how to rate their adopted stream based on the macroinvertebrates found.



Owners of Castor River Camp and Park, Claude and Kathy Medin (Team 1361), hosted a litter pickup and picnic along with Nancy Phillips and other campers. Collected from the river were 10 tires, 32 bags of trash, and a 55 gallon barrel.



Dedicated citizens of Piedmont (Team 2226) picked up litter during their 6th Annual McKenzie Creek Cleanup. Seventy-five participants collected a total of 6 tons of trash. Keep up the good work!



During an Introductory Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring workshop, Stream Teams learned how to assess a stream with a visual survey.

◆ Commitment ◆ Respect ◆ Cooperation ◆



Dissolved oxygen testing interested the Girl Scouts of Stream Team 2645 while two other girls and their Scout Leader measured stream flow. If you are interested in learning more about how to become a Volunteer Water Quality Monitor, visit our website at www.mostreamteam.org and sign up for one of the Introductory Level workshops nearest you.



After about 45 minutes of digging, pulling, and sweating, the Buttin Rock Access sign was freed from sediment. Mary Palmer, Bob Schulz, and several others won the prize for the “most unusual trash” found at the annual Jacks Fork cleanup.



Chris Riggert, Stream Team Biologist, taught at many of the Stream Team Academy workshops across the state this past year. Do you know how many Stream Team volunteers attended Academy classes in 2004? **523!**



Team 2307, Gauchat Construction, conducted a floating litter pickup in June. It took some mighty Stream Team muscles to get this huge tire out of the mud and onto the canoe!



The trucks and trailers were completely full at the City of Arnold’s Winter Cleanup on the Meramec, so a generous Team 211 volunteer donated his own vehicle to haul the leftovers. That’s real dedication!

◆ Strength ◆ Accomplishment ◆ Heart ◆



It's Missouri River Relief! Hundreds of Stream Teamers and other citizen volunteers helped clean the Big Muddy . . . at multiple sites from Kansas City to St. Louis. Not only were tons of trash removed from the river and its banks, but many willing hands sorted the refuse for items to recycle.



Dan Coyle's Venture Crew (Team 2543) collected 16 bags of trash at their first litter pickup . . . including a smiley face soccer ball they named "Wilson" and adopted as their mascot.



"And THIS is how we test water quality in the winter!" reported Vicki Richmond. Neither snow nor rain nor gloom of night keeps Stream Team 1878, the Blue River Watershed Association, from their monitoring activities.



Have you heard about the mystery of the traveling Stream Team T-shirt? Last December, for her Stream Team Association get-together, Mary Ann Mutrux put her Stream Team shirt on her mailbox to identify her driveway. After the event, Mary Ann discovered the T-shirt had disappeared! Since then, the T-shirt has traveled to Chicago and Spokane (as shown at left), plus Seattle, New Orleans, and several other places around the nation. After each new destination, the traveling T-shirt sends Mary Ann photos of its travels. Hmmmm . . . how long—and how far—will the mystery shirt travel!?!?



Gerry Boehm and Teammates (Stream Teams 346, 396, and 463) conducted chemical tests from multiple sites during Dardenne Days 2004.

◆ Character ◆ Effort ◆ Enthusiasm ◆



Mark Van Patten congratulated Zach Wrinkle of Team 2272 for winning a canoe in the Stream Team Activity Prize Drawing last July. Can you believe it was Zach's birthday the day he won? You could win, too, even if it's not your birthday! Simply send us your Activity Reports. The more activities you report, the better your chances!



Trash will never win this battle . . . not with Missouri Stream Teams and the Missouri National Guard on the front line! The 37th Annual Operation Clean Stream was a huge success on the Meramec, Bourbeuse, Big, Huzzah, and Courtois rivers. The Green Tree Park site (above) was only one of many cleaned by hardworking and willing volunteers. Hoo-ah!



Stream Team 1062 (Wentzville Water Reclamation Center) is busy again! They stenciled 24 city storm drains with the message, "Dump No Waste, Drains To Stream." Call us today for your Storm Drain Stenciling Kit and use it to educate citizens in your city or neighborhood.



Beaufort Lions Club was awarded the River Stewardship Award for their unfailing efforts over the years assisting with Operation Clean Stream. Congratulations!



Stream Team kids from many different Teams cut, pasted, painted, and glittered to decorate our offices over the holidays. Thanks, kids!

Stream Team Staff

2004

*Thank you, Stream Teams,
for another year of hard work and dedication.
Don't forget, we are here to help!*



Back row from left: Mike Irwin, Dick Duchrow, Mary Clark, Mary Utrecht, Paul Calvert, Donna Menown, Tim Rielly, Chris Riggert.
Front row from left: Priscilla Stotts, Ann Crawford, Bob Schulz, Jim Lubbers, Mark Van Patten, Sherry Fischer.

Stream Team is sponsored by
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Conservation Federation of Missouri

